

NEWS ROUND-UP ~ MAY 2004

LLOYD HALL CAR PARK APPEAL

The Appeal against refusal of a 36 space car park in the field adjacent the Lloyd Hall will be heard on **Wednesday 5th May** in the **Council Offices** at **Station Road East, Oxted commencing at 10.00am.**

Members of the public may attend, but it will be at the Inspector's discretion as to whether comments from third parties will be allowed. Should you wish to inspect the Questionnaire and Statement of Case for Tandridge District Council and the Appellant(s) you may do so at the above address during normal working hours, i.e. Monday - Thursday 8.30am-5.00pm, Friday 8.30am-4.30pm. Please telephone 01883 732768 BEFORE calling to inspect them.

Your Council will be represented at the Appeal and have submitted evidence (supporting the car park) to the Planning Inspectorate which will be taken into account. It would be encouraging to see support from the village at this Appeal. Remember the Lloyd Hall is in fact owned by the residents of Outwood.

OUTWOOD PARISH MEETING

By the time you read this the Parish Meeting will have been held but we should like to offer a belated apology for the fact that we had a last minute change to our main speaker. We were advised that due to pressure of Council work the Chief Executive of Tandridge District Council, Stephen Weigel, was unable to attend but we were delighted when **Andrew Smith** of the **Rural Housing Trust** agreed to come and speak at short notice.

RURAL HOUSING TRUST AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The cost of housing in Outwood has for many years been expensive. It has reflected prices generally in the area but our village, i.e. OUR COMMUNITY, has always been a much sought after residential address. The general cost of housing has meant that for many first time buyers the village of Outwood has been a non-starter for house purchasing and many younger people are excluded from sharing our rural surroundings.

The National Trust are the biggest landowners in the village and they are at the present time – according to a recent report in a national paper – looking, in some parts of the country, at the possibility of making some of their smaller properties, i.e. former estate- and farm-workers' properties, available for renting to low income groups at discounted rents. This is a positive step forward. Likewise the Rural Housing Trust, who gave a presentation at our recent Annual Parish Meeting, is an organisation which your Council feels may have a part to play in the pursuit of "Affordable Housing". They have provided, over the past 27 years, some 3,000 homes in 400 villages throughout England. These homes are available indefinitely to local people and can never be sold on the open market. They are not necessarily built in estates - two or three units spread over the community are often considered by all concerned parties to be the best solution.

We should like to know your views on whether you think the idea of looking at the possibility of affordable homes in Outwood should be further investigated.

If there is sufficient interest we shall most likely call an open meeting in the Lloyd Hall.

GRL